

REMARKS

Applicants have amended their claims in order to facilitate proceedings in connection with the above-identified application. Specifically, Applicants have canceled the Group II claims as set forth in the Office Action mailed July 10, 2006, without prejudice or disclaimer, and in particular without prejudice to the filing of a Divisional application directed to the subject matter thereof.

The undersigned notes the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed July 10, 2006. In view of canceling of the Group II claims, it is respectfully submitted that this restriction requirement is moot. In any event, in order to clearly provide a complete response to the Office Action mailed July 10, 2006, Applicants respectfully elect the Group I claims, that is, Claims 1, 3-6, 8-23 and 31-61, for prosecution on the merits in the present application, this election being made without traverse.

In view of the foregoing, entry of the present amendments, and examination of the Group I claims on the merits in due course, are respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 1204.44657X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Attachments